

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. It will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new technologies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, more importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a stronger alternative to cable in our community. People will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information. Most importantly, the merger will make affordable high-speed Internet service available by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't currently have access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger.

Satellite Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Rufus Foutz
1202 Priory Place
Norfolk, VA 23505